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4-16-1899

Letter from Anne Whitney, Boston, Massachusetts, to Catharine Brown Porter, 1899 April 16

Anne Whitney

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Detroit April 16 - '99

My beloved Katy -

Fine weather
again - but when we get
our limbs all right again
we shall not be overriden by
weather - & may that time
hurry towards us -!

I go out to
Belmont as often as the Fair
permit - because my work lies there
but so far from leaving any chance
to ^{test my strength} ~~overcome~~ ~~it~~ ~~and~~ or even to come
up to my rightful position in the
way of effort - why - I could clear

a good space between here
& the moon if the strength &
spirit were all - but there
is a wand at the gate which
brings me up with a jerk before
I have a chance to try -

I have just rec^d. a letter from
my N. Y. doctor in which he says
I must be patient & wait for
permanent results - Permanent
results is a good phrase - I will
keep it for the crawling hours
between now & then - Enough
about me! - I shame to have
spoken of any call for patience
on my part - with you Room than
dear, stretched out upon your
months' bed of meanness!

Adeline's sister Sarah who has
been with us the last week has
given me the Browning & Barrett
letters - Two big volumes. Charged
with a measure of palpitating life -
The assumption of the mere existence
in criticism that such letters might
never have been published is not
worth a moment's consideration.
He knew - & when he told his son
that these were the letters &c as
he saw fit - with them - he meant
that the world should have the
benefit of them - It was a perfectly
just & by no means overweening estimate
of the value of such a work to
the world - A double autobiography
having the independent value of
of an absolute truthful rendering

of the inner life, & contain
to be a formidable classic -
Think of the naked, unblushing
way in which Fiction stalks
round assuming to give us what
it cannot - & making a genuine
stage out with leaving of passions
& letters &c -

So soon as The Mother
Mollifies a few degrees I hope
to find you again my patient dear -
Obedient & could be of use! But
life is not barren to you even
under these trying circumstances
not so barren as it is to many
who are in the thick of the fight.
Think for example of Mr. Kinley
& his Pal Alger - who would be in
their shoes! What a dream result of
leaving the plain path of love of Country
& kind for that of self & self-aggrandizement -
O my love & Adeline's love - ever -
& love to the whole circle -
Yours A